

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 8-35, 40, 41 and 43-66 are allowed.

Claims 1, 11-12, 14, 16-35, 43-46, 49 and 55-65 have been amended. Claims 41 and 51-54 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 67-77 have been added. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Request consideration of IDS filed herewith

The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider the references in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed herewith. The Applicant requests the Examiner return a signed copy of Form PTO-1449 at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraph [0001] of the specification has been amended to reflect the claim to priority of the instant application, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.78 (see also, M.P.E.P. § 201.11, III, D, and § 201.11,V). The Applicant respectfully requests the amendment to the specification be entered.

Conclusion

The Applicants submit that in view of the remarks and amendments set forth herein, all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully requests the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance in this case

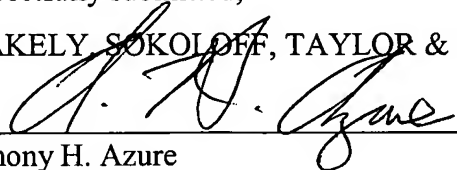
Charge Deposit Account

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fee(s) that may be due in this matter, and please credit the same deposit account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: Aug. 16, 2004



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